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- Today's Insider (PDF)



YOU DON'T SAY...

"There's this notion that movies are only temporary and make no permanent contribution to the state infrastructure, but the benefits are there. I've had a long-held desire to make a movie in North Carolina, and that's tougher now. It's millions of dollars, and that matters."

UNC-Chapel Hill alumnus Peyton Reed, director of the big-budget Marvel film "Ant-Man," on his desire to film in his home state.

THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/01/18

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News Summary

Notable Senate Primaries

With the candidate filing period over, legislative candidates facing competition in the primary have about two months to make their case to voters. Here's a look at which Senate primaries will be worth watching. The Insider will publish a similar list for House primaries next week.

Senate District 1: Sen. Bill Cook's retirement has left an open seat representing the northeastern corner of the state, and Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, is locked in a heated GOP battle with Clark Twiddy, who owns an Outer Banks real-estate company. Twiddy has the backing of Cook and several Senate Republican leaders, but Steinburg has been on the offensive, criticizing Twiddy's past contributions to Democrats -- even launching a website called TwiddyForSale.com.

Senate District 16: This open seat district in Wake County leans heavily Democratic, so the winner of the primary is likely to win in November. Wiley Nickel, a Cary attorney and a former member of President Barack Obama's advance team, faces Luis Toledo, an Air Force veteran and former state auditor staffer who now works as a policy analyst for the N.C. Justice Center. Nickel had an early advantage in fundraising, raising \$190,000 last year, but Toledo could be the only Latino in the legislature if elected.

Senate District 31: This is one of two districts where a pair of double-bunked Republican incumbents will face off: Sen. Joyce Krawiec of Forsyth County and Sen. Dan Barrett of Davie County. Krawiec is expected to do well in the rural Forsyth portion of the new District 31, much of which was in her old district. But she hasn't represented Davie County before -- and that's where Barrett served on the county commission before being appointed to fill departing Sen. Andrew Brock's seat last year.

Senate District 34: This race will likely be the battle of the newcomers: Both A.J. Daoud -- a funeral home owner, former lottery commissioner and longtime GOP activist -- and former Sen. Bob Rucho, R-Mecklenburg, moved into the district to take advantage of an open, Republican-leaning seat. Two other Republican candidates are lesser known statewide but have leadership roles in Iredell County, which forms the new district along with Yadkin County. They are Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education member Bill Howell and Vickie Sawyer, treasurer of the Iredell County Republican Party and Iredell County Planning Board member.

Senate District 38: Sen. Joel Ford, D-Mecklenburg, did worse than expected in his bid for Charlotte mayor last year, and now he's facing three Democrats seeking to unseat him from the Senate. The best-known challenger is Mujtaba Mohammed, an attorney and former vice chairman of the Mecklenburg County Republican Party. The others are Tim Wallis and Roderick Davis.

Senate District 39: Sen. Dan Bishop, R-Mecklenburg, is facing a well organized Republican primary challenger in Beth Monaghan, a businesswoman who has a gay son and has criticized Bishop for sponsoring House Bill 2. The race will serve as a barometer of urban Republicans' support for the socially conservative legislation championed by Bishop.

Senate District 42: Sen. Andy Wells, R-Catawba, was unopposed in 2016, but this year he's facing three primary challengers, most notably former state Rep. Mark Hollo, R-Alexander. The other candidates are Dustin Long and Ryan Huffman. It's unclear so far if any of the challengers are motivated by opposition to some aspect of Wells' Senate record.

Senate District 45: Sen. Deanna Ballard, R-Watauga, and Sen. Shirley Randleman, will face off in the second double-bunked Senate district. About 55 percent of the new district is represented by Randleman, while the rest is represented by Ballard -- so this one could be a toss-up. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 3/02/18)

Special Master Bill

Republican legislative defendants in North Carolina's racial gerrymandering case say state taxpayers should not have to pay the full \$124,125 bill from a special master in the federal lawsuit. A lawyer for state Senate Leader Phil Berger, R-Rockingham, state House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland, and other current and former GOP officeholders contends Stanford law professor Nathaniel Persily's services were never really needed as special master. "The taxpayers of North Carolina should not be responsible for the fees and expenses incurred by the special master in this matter because it was not necessary for the court to employ a special master to fix the constitutional deficiencies," attorney Phillip Strach of Raleigh said in his written objection to the bill Persily submitted recently.

If the three-judge panel overseeing the case ultimately approves Persily's bill, the costs should be split among North Carolina state government and groups representing the voters who initially filed the lawsuit, said Strach, whose wife heads the state Board of Elections that also is a defendant in the lawsuit.

Strach said that Persily's work was unnecessary because if the judicial panel of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina had issued a final ruling more promptly last year, "there would have been ample time for the General Assembly to cure any alleged constitutional infirmities" with its own revised map and at lower cost than what Persily is charging, Strach contended.

The lawsuit initially was filed three years ago by 31 voters from across the state who claimed that in drawing legislative maps after the last census, the Republican-led General Assembly had packed excessive numbers of black voters into a relatively small number of districts to minimize the statewide impact of their Democrat-leaning voting patterns. The three-judge panel, based in Greensboro, agreed. The judges found that 28 state House and Senate districts in the original election map legislators adopted in 2011 stemmed from such unconstitutional racial gerrymandering -- a decision that was upheld last year by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Persily was called in by the trio of judges in the fall after the General Assembly went back to the drawing board in late summer to develop a new legislative map that fixed problems with 24 of the 28 flawed districts to the judicial panel's satisfaction. But the panel then hired Persily, an acknowledged redistricting expert, to fix the remaining four problem districts. The three-judge panel includes U.S. District Judges Catherine Eagles of Greensboro and Thomas Schroeder of Winston-Salem and appellate Judge James Wynn Jr. of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

In his recent billing statement, Persily indicated he and a colleague had worked more than 320 hours fixing North Carolina's legislative maps. He charges \$500 per hour and his assistant nets \$250, he said. The judicial panel said in tapping Persily last fall that "all reasonable costs and expenses" for his work should be "paid in full by the state of North Carolina within 30 days after court approval." But the judges also said that costs could be split between various parties to the case "should circumstances warrant."

In his petition, Strach said that if the judicial panelists determine North Carolina taxpayers must pay all of Persily's bill "at this time," they should add a provision allowing that decision to be revisited if the legislative defendants prevail in another appeal that they have filed with the U.S. Supreme Court seeking to overturn the districts that Persily drew.

Strach might face an uphill battle convincing the panel that its own failure to act promptly created an urgent time-crunch that triggered the perceived need for Persily's expertise. That's because the GOP-led legislature rejected Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's call for a special session in early June to fix the state's redistricting problem, shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court had upheld the Middle District

panel's initial finding that 28 districts ran afoul of prohibitions against racial gerrymandering. Instead, legislators waited until late summer before tackling the problem, enacting the replacement plan only one day before the three-judge panel's Sept. 1 deadline. (Taft Wireback, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 3/01/18)

Fired

The leaders of the state's parks and historic sites departments were fired this week, according to a report from the conservative Carolina Journal. Mike Murphy had been director of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation since July 2014, while Keith Hardison had been director of the N.C. Division of State Historic Sites since 2006.

Neel Lattimore, spokesman for the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, confirmed the two directors' last day on the job was Wednesday. He declined to make the department's secretary, Susi Hamilton, available for comment on the departures and referred further questions to the Office of State Human Resources. Michelle Lanier is now the acting director of historic sites, and Carol Tingley is acting director of parks, according to Lattimore.

Both positions were exempt from personnel protections, meaning Gov. Roy Cooper's administration can fire them without cause. Murphy had a salary of \$121,597, while Hardison was paid \$104,624, according to personnel records released Thursday by Lattimore. (Colin Campbell, THE INSIDER, 3/02/18)

Wake Election

An attorney leading another challenge to North Carolina legislative districts wants Wake County House boundaries changed for this year's elections, but a lawyer for Republican state lawmakers says it's too late for that. Three state judges asked the lawyers Thursday how litigation by advocacy groups and voters should proceed. No decisions were announced. The plaintiffs contend four districts must revert to 2011 boundaries because the state constitution prevented lawmakers from changing them last summer without specific court orders. Complicating the case is the U.S. Supreme Court blocking a federal court ruling so last year's lines are in use for May primaries. Plaintiffs' lawyer Allison Riggs suggested holding special Wake County House primary elections this summer if her clients succeed. GOP lawyer Phil Strach says that would cause disruption and uncertainty. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, 3/01/18)

Gun Laws

In Florida, a state House panel endorsed raising the minimum age to buy rifles and creating a three-day waiting period for gun sales. Ohio's governor wants to limit large-capacity magazines and ban bump stocks. And in Rhode Island, the governor signed a bill that could take guns away from people who pose a danger to themselves or others. But in North Carolina, the prospect for tougher gun laws appears unlikely, even after last month's shooting that killed 17 people at a Florida high school.

Lawmakers are reviewing ways to increase school safety. But those efforts are expected to stop short of gun restrictions. "Folks want to try to drag the gun debate into it," Republican House Speaker Tim Moore told a TV interviewer last week. "Look, that's a discussion for another time."

Even President Donald Trump, a strong ally of the NRA, said Wednesday he favors a "comprehensive" approach to guns including more thorough background checks and raising the age for some gun purchases. That encourages gun control advocates like Becky Ceartas, executive director North Carolinians Against Gun Violence. She said she's talked to a lot of people since Parkland. For now, she's trying to stop a bill that would let people carry weapons in public places without a concealed carry permit. "There are people throughout this state getting involved to make a difference," Ceartas said. "We're optimistic because we see that the citizens of North Carolina are saying 'We have the right to be safe at school and in public.'"

"I would predict that unless the majority of the General Assembly change, that there wouldn't be

anything to advance gun safety and I would expect more loosening of gun laws," said Christy Clark of Huntersville, former head of the state Chapter of Moms Demand Action, a gun control group. She's one of two Democrats challenging Republican Rep. John Bradford in District 98. Clark, a mother of five, said the Florida school shooting "pushes gun violence prevention to the forefront" of her campaign. But so far there's little sign that's true for other candidates.

David McLennan, a political scientist at Raleigh's Meredith College, said there's always been opposition to tighter gun laws in North Carolina. "I'd say North Carolina would probably be one of the last states to follow the lead of Florida or even the federal government," McLennan said. "I think we see the typical divide here. It just doesn't seem to be that rural legislators have any interest at all in terms of doing anything significant in dealing with access to guns or mental health or any of the affiliated issues."

The NRA has spent heavily in North Carolina at the congressional level, but not for the General Assembly. Republican Sens. Richard Burr and Thom Tillis have been two of its biggest Congressional beneficiaries, with the NRA spending millions on TV ads against their last Democratic opponents. But the NRA gives virtually nothing to legislative candidates. In 2016, for example, the organization donated to just one N.C. lawmaker and to the House Republican caucus. Instead, it depends on mailers and scorecards to its many members across the state and the country. Much of the Republican legislative leadership comes from rural areas, where support for gun rights is strong. But that support also extends to other areas. Mecklenburg County Sheriff Irwin Carmichael, a Democrat, had planned a gun raffle as a campaign fundraiser last month. But he canceled it in the wake of the Florida school shooting.

N.C. lawmakers have always been wary of gun control. In its scorecard of state gun laws, the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gives North Carolina a D-. In 2013 the legislature passed and Republican Gov. Pat McCrory signed a law that allows concealed-carry weapons on college campuses. Opposed by college leaders, the bill passed a year after a gunman killed 12 at a Colorado movie theater. In supporting the bill, one N.C. lawmaker said if more people had guns fewer people might have died. Last year the House passed HB746, which would allow anyone who legally owns a gun to carry it concealed without a permit anywhere they can carry it openly. Critics like Ceartas say it effectively ends the need for concealed-carry permits, which require the holders to be 21 and pass firearm safety training. The bill is in the Senate and eligible for consideration in the session that starts in May.

Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper has offered no specific recommendations on guns or school safety. But spokeswoman Sadie Weiner said Cooper "is clear that sending prayers in the wake of a shooting is simply not enough."

Rep. John Torbett, R-Gaston, is helping lead a special committee named by the speaker, said he's willing to take a look at everything, including guns. But he's not sure that's the answer. "An inanimate object never did anybody any harm without the person behind it doing the harm," he said. "It's the action of the individual who uses it as a tool to harm people."

Sen. Ronald Rabin, R-Harnett, who co-chairs the Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee and who also had an A rating from the NRA, said lawmakers could expand the number of armed school resource officers and even outlaw "bump stocks," which make weapons virtually automatic. Trump also has called for their elimination. One member of the oversight committee is open to going further. "How do you separate gun laws and school safety given what's going on?" said Sen. Jeff Tarte, R-Mecklenburg, who has A+ NRA rating. "The legislature has to have those conversations. If they don't occur formally they'll happen informally. Unless you're living under a rock, everyone's asking." (Jim Morrill, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, 3/01/18)

Film Incentives

As director of the tourism department in Jackson County, Nick Breedlove sends out a lot of visitor guides. And when he asks why people are interested in visiting the county in Western North Carolina,

one particular answer has come up a lot these past few months. "Our website asks how people learned about Jackson County or Sylva, and there's an 'Other' field," Breedlove said. "A lot of people have been typing 'Ebbing' or 'Three Billboards.'"

That's "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" -- an independent movie filmed in 2016 in and around Sylva, a town west of Asheville with a population around 2,500. Lured in part by a \$3.1 million grant from the state's film-incentives program, the \$15 million film has been a big hit, grossing more than \$121 million worldwide and winning major acclaim during awards season.

The spotlight on "Three Billboards" has brought renewed attention to North Carolina's film incentives program, which has decreased dramatically from its peak just a few years ago. In 2012, productions directly spent a record \$377 million in North Carolina making films including "Iron Man 3" -- a Marvel Studios blockbuster made in the Wilmington area, which grossed more than \$1 billion worldwide.

Last year, productions spent a fraction of that: \$50 million, a figure that looks to be even lower in 2018. At this time, no major films or TV projects are scheduled to begin shooting in North Carolina this year, according to the North Carolina Film Office. The producers of "Three Billboards" considered 20 locations for the fictional town of Ebbing, said Breedlove, choosing Sylva for its "historic small-town feel." But Sylva probably would not have even been under consideration without financial incentives. That \$3.1 million grant from the state represented more than 20 percent of the film's budget.

Guy Gaster, director of the North Carolina Film Office, said incentives are an essential tool to keep films from going elsewhere, like Georgia, South Carolina, Louisiana or Canada. Proponents of the incentives say the projects produce jobs for residents, economic benefits for local businesses and vendors and a future tourism boost from pop culture fans looking for filming sites. But you have to pay to play.

Two decades ago, when enough movies were being made around Wilmington (where EUE/Screen Gems Studios is located) for the town to become known as "Wilmywood," North Carolina was considered Hollywood East. "Forrest Gump," "The Crow," "Blue Velvet," "The Last of the Mohicans" and even "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" were among the movies made in North Carolina. So were TV series like "One Tree Hill" and "Dawson's Creek." It was a glamorous, lucrative business, and other states wanted in. So they began offering financial incentives to lure productions away from North Carolina. With movie budgets rocketing upward, other countries also emerged as cheaper alternatives.

With North Carolina's film business feeling the pinch, the legislature created a tax-credit incentive in 2006 of 15 percent on qualifying expenses. That started luring business back. Things really picked up in 2011 after the state increased the film-incentive tax credit to 25 percent, which helped attract "Iron Man 3." According to figures from the Motion Picture Association of America, "Iron Man 3" brought an estimated \$179.8 million in spending and more than 2,000 full-time equivalent jobs to the state.

But after the state's payouts totaled \$61.2 million in 2013 and \$80.7 million in 2014, the film incentive became a budgetary target. The conservative group Americans For Prosperity decried it as "Hollywood Handouts," and the Republican-controlled General Assembly was listening. The state let the tax-credit program expire in 2014, replacing it with a smaller grant program of \$10 million with more stringent requirements. The impact was felt almost immediately. Production spending dropped from \$316 million in 2014 to \$127 million in 2015. That figure was down to \$50 million in 2017 and will probably be even lower this year. Meanwhile, Georgia has become the top state in America for film production with incentives in line with what North Carolina used to offer.

Sen. Jim Davis, R-Macon, whose district includes "Three Billboards" film sites, looks at film grants as "just another economic-development tool."

"I am in favor of them so long as they're not a net negative," said Davis. "If it's a net positive, income to outgo, it's an easier sell for me." On the other side is the John Locke Foundation, a conservative group that generally opposes all incentives and calls film incentives "Good Old-Fashioned Corporate Welfare."

"The argument was that this was a burgeoning industry and incentives were supposed to help it grow," said Locke senior political analyst Mitch Kokai. "But as soon as that spigot turned off, production moved away. It's not a sustainable industry that lasts once the incentives go away. The only way to keep them coming back is to keep the incentives flowing."

While no big film projects in North Carolina are confirmed, Gaster of the North Carolina Film Office said negotiations are in progress and they're "quite close" on a few films. But he also cautioned that the state's current grant program has built-in limitations. "I hope people will understand we won't catch back up with the cap we have now," said Gaster. "At \$31 million a year, we might get (production spending) back to \$150 million -- that would be a really good year. We won't get back to the \$300s with the program we currently have." (David Menconi, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/01/18)

Hall Campaign

A day after reports of sexual misconduct emerged against Rep. Duane Hall, he hasn't said whether he'll listen to calls from his party and the governor to step down. Hall, D-Wake, hasn't publicly responded to calls for his resignation from Gov. Roy Cooper, the North Carolina Democratic Party and state Rep. Darren Jackson, the House minority leader. They called for Hall to step down on Wednesday in response to reporting by NC Policy Watch, a news organization that is part of the liberal advocacy group the NC Justice Center. Policy Watch published a story in which five people -- some of them anonymous -- accused Hall of inappropriate conduct. One of the sources, Jessie White, also told The News & Observer that Hall behaved inappropriately to her on three occasions. Policy Watch published a second story on Thursday in which two more people came forward with similar accusations.

Hall has denied the allegations. He told Policy Watch that he believes "beyond a shadow of a doubt" that he's never sexually harassed any women in his time as a state legislator. The story surfaced on the last day that candidates could file to run for a seat in the General Assembly. Hall had filed to run for re-election two weeks prior to publication of the story, on Feb. 12. Hall hasn't released a statement or responded to calls, texts or emails from The N&O.

If Hall chooses to seek re-election, he would do so in one of the most left-leaning districts in North Carolina. House District 11, which covers southwestern Raleigh and parts of Cary, supported Democrat Hillary Clinton over Republican Donald Trump by a 63-to-30 percent margin in the 2016 presidential election. Democrat Deborah Ross got 61 percent of the district's U.S. Senate vote in a losing effort that year. And voters supported Cooper over then-Gov. Pat McCrory by a 66-to-30 percent margin. However, Hall would have to beat out two Democratic women in a primary before facing Republican Tyler Brooks and Libertarian Travis Groo in the general election.

Hall's primary challengers are Allison Dahle of Raleigh and Heather Metour of Cary. Both filed to run on the same day allegations against Hall surfaced. Dahle didn't immediately return calls seeking comment on her background and platform.

Metour said in an interview Wednesday night that her decision to run for the seat "had nothing to do" with Hall. She said she "very much wanted to stay out of the public eye," but that the teenagers who survived the shooting in Parkland, Florida, last month inspired her to run. "My kids have been doing code red drills since they entered school. With the 'Never Again' movement,' those kids are so inspiring to me," Metour said. She said she's between jobs as a talent acquisition professional. Metour was mentioned often in the murder trial of Brad Cooper, a Cary man convicted of killing his wife. Though Metour did not testify at the 2011 trial, Cooper acknowledged having an extramarital affair with her as his marriage was falling apart. "I've been sitting on the sidelines for a long time," she continued. "With the legislature being primarily dominated by men who seem to be failing at

adulting, and with the Me Too movement inspiring me, I said 'enough is enough.'"

Brooks, the Republican in the race, is an attorney for a local branch of the Thomas More Law Center, a conservative public interest group. Brooks said he's running because he sees an opportunity for the district's representative to be more responsive. He declined to comment on the allegations against Hall.

Groo, the Libertarian, works as a driver trainer for Old Dominion Freight Line. Like Brooks, this is his first campaign for elected office. Groo pointed to the 2016 presidential election as proof that voters are "disillusioned" by both the Republican and Democratic parties. He criticized the parties for their spending. "I want a government so small you can barely see it," Groo said, invoking U.S. Sen. Rand Paul. He said he doesn't plan to attack Hall over the allegations. "I don't want to slam someone's character that I don't know personally." (Paul A. Specht, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/01/18)

Filing

Alissa Batts, a Republican, has filed for N.C. House District 61. Incumbent state Rep. Pricey Harrison, whose 58 seat was redrawn, has also filed to run for the seat, which includes Greensboro. "North Carolina is a dynamic state, with a strong economy and smart investment in education," Batts said. "Unfortunately, my opponent wants to undo all of the progress that North Carolina has made, to get rid of the very qualities that first attracted me to this state." Batts holds degrees in business and information technology management from Louisiana State University and previously worked with The Dow Chemical Co. as a site records coordinator. She moved to North Carolina several years ago to work as the records management manager at ITG Brands.

A Greensboro Democrat will make his second straight run against incumbent Sen. Trudy Wade. Michael Garrett, 33, has filed to run for the District 27 seat in the N.C. Senate. Garrett is the managing partner of a marketing firm. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration from UNCG and is a past president of the university's alumni association. In a brief telephone interview Thursday, Garrett said he wants to raise teacher pay, invest in public school classrooms, bring more good-paying jobs to Guilford County and lower taxes on working families and small businesses. He also supports nonpartisan redistricting reform. Neither Garrett nor Wade has a primary opponent.

Kurt Collins of Jamestown, a Republican, filed to run for N.C. House District 60. Incumbent Democrat Cecil Brockman is running for a third term. Collins graduated from Western Carolina University, where he majored in political science. He says his main focuses are economic development and job creation.

Republican Clark Porter will try to unseat Democratic incumbent Gladys Robinson in the N.C. Senate District 28 race. Porter, 54, is a customer service representative for a senior living facility in Greensboro. He attended UNC-Greensboro and Lees-McCrae College but didn't earn a degree. Porter is making his first run for elected office but he's no stranger to politics. He's a committee chairman for the Guilford County Republican Party and serves on the executive committee of the North Carolina Republican Party. After the 2016 election, Porter filed formal protests alleging that 17 Guilford County residents voted illegally. Four of those people sued him for defamation. That case is pending in Guilford County Superior Court. Neither Porter nor his Democratic opponent, Sen. Gladys Robinson of Greensboro, has a primary opponent, so they'll both be on the ballot in the Nov. 6 general election. Robinson has held the District 28 seat since 2010.

Peter Boykin, a Republican and the founder of Gays for Trump, has filed for N.C. House District 58. The seat is held by state Rep. Amos Quick, a Democrat, and includes eastern Guilford County. Boykin is president of Gays for Trump. His focus is on school, church and public safety; proper gun training and safety; employment and job security.

Democratic candidate Dr. Cheraton Love, a dean of first-year students and biology instructor at Winston-Salem State University, has filed for N.C. Senate District 29, according to a press release. Love said she filed to ensure that Davidson and Montgomery counties have a choice in who they elect

to the General Assembly. She believes legislators in Raleigh need to return to the business of taking care of North Carolina communities and families by putting education first, improving access to quality healthcare and establishing a sustainable workforce. (GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, THE (Lexington) DISPATCH, 3/01/18)

Weekend TV

Political roundtable shows in North Carolina will cover a myriad of topics this week including school safety, gerrymandering, funding for state roads, and addressing problems within the state's prison system. Here's what to look for:

- **Education Matters** this week is a one-on-one with Lt. Gov. Dan Forest where he discusses top education issues facing the state, including school safety and arming teachers, digital learning, school choice and the state of public education. **Host:** Keith Poston **Airs:** Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. on WRAL, Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on Fox50, and on UNC-TV's North Carolina channel on Sundays at 6:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., and anytime on [NCForum.org](#).
- **Flashpoint:** This week's guests will discuss gerrymandering, Charlotte's chances of landing the next RNC, and the latest on the Russia investigation, guns and school safety, and President Donald Trump's approval rating. **Host:** Ben Thompson **Guests:** Rep. Chaz Beasley, D-Mecklenburg, and former Rep. Charles Jeter, R-Mecklenburg. **Airs:** Sundays at 11 a.m. on WCNC NBC Charlotte, or [online](#).
- **Front Row:** This week's show details the hearing on offshore drilling held in Raleigh, companies cutting ties with the NRA in the wake of the Florida school shooting, the U.S. Supreme Court's hearing on mandatory union dues and the "Race of the Week" -- North Carolina's 9th Congressional District. **Host:** Marc Rotterman **Guests:** Mitch Kokai of the John Locke Foundation; Democratic strategist Morgan Jackson; Sen. Mike Woodard, D-Durham; and Donna King, managing editor of the North State Journal. **Airs:** 8:30 p.m. Fridays and Sundays at 12 p.m. on UNC-TV, and on the NC Channel at 9 p.m. Fridays, at 4 p.m. Saturdays and 9:30 a.m. Sundays, or [online](#).
- **In Focus:** This week's show will discuss alternative ways to fund state roads and infrastructure as the state sees revenues from the gas tax shrink. **Host:** Loretta Boniti **Guests:** North Carolina Secretary of Transportation Jim Trogden; Rep. Frank Iler, R-Brunswick; Dr. Daniel Hall of High Point University; and Michael Walden of North Carolina State University. **Airs:** 11:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Sunday on Spectrum News/News 14, and can be found [online](#).
- **NC Spin:** This week, panelists will examine how the 2018 elections are shaping up in the state, new security measures for elections, fixing the state's prison system, and the state's biggest political problem. **Host:** Tom Campbell **Guests:** Rick Henderson, editor in chief of the Carolina Journal; Brad Crone, political and communications consultant; Chris Fitzsimon, political analyst and columnist; and John Hood, syndicated columnist and author. **Airs:** Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 12:30 p.m. on UNC-TV, and on UNC-TV's North Carolina channel on Friday nights at 10 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. It can be found online at [NC Spin](#).

(THE INSIDER, 3/02/18)

Well Testing

Drinking water samples from 26 private wells near the Marine Corps' outlying landing field in the Down East Carteret County community of Atlantic have detectable levels of man-made compounds described as emerging contaminants, but only two of the wells sampled so far have tested at amounts at or above federal health recommendations for a lifetime of exposure. The sampling is part of an ongoing Navy investigation into whether property owners near Atlantic Field have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in their drinking water and to identify potential sources of the contaminants. The Navy has tested 223 wells in the area around the airfield since November when the investigation began.

Navy officials hosted an informational meeting Feb. 21 in the school gym at Atlantic Elementary to share the results of the investigation, which they stressed is in its preliminary stage. Officials are also encouraging more property owners in the area to volunteer to have their well water tested for the contaminants, which share similarities with the compound known as GenX that has been detected in the Cape Fear River near Wilmington and elsewhere around the Chemours Co. manufacturing plant in Bladen County.

"Aircraft firefighting foam is one of the things that these compounds have been used in," said Mike Barton, director of public affairs at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. "They've been commonly used in commercial products since the 1950s, including things like Teflon and a lot of different products out there. The Navy is conducting this investigation to determine if our airfield has introduced any of these compounds into the local water. They're doing this all over the country at different airfields."

Barton noted that the community gets its drinking water from private wells rather than a municipal system, but permission from homeowners is needed to allow sampling to determine if any PFAS compounds can be detected. A similar, initial meeting was held here Nov. 8. (Mark Hibbs, COASTAL REVIEW ONLINE, 3/01/18)

Flu Season

It appears that this season's flu is starting to wane from the peak number of cases reported to officials at the state Department of Health and Human Services several weeks ago. But DHHS Sec. Mandy Cohen told lawmakers at the General Assembly on Wednesday that rates of flu activity remain higher than even at the peak of illness last year. "We not only peaked early, we peaked higher," said Cohen who reported the most common flu has been an H3N2 strain that she termed "particularly virulent and has a high degree of illness."

More than 200 people in North Carolina are confirmed to have died as a result of flu this year, most of them over the age of 65, with 27 reported in the past week alone. Hospitalizations across the state related to the disease remain at seasonal highs. Last month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported this year's flu shot was about 36 percent effective overall at preventing the flu, but the vaccine was more effective against less virulent strains of the disease than against the H3N2, which has been the nastiest of the strains in circulation.

A flu vaccine always contains components to ward off at least three flu viruses, and which viruses are contained in the shot are decided months before the flu season begins. This means that sometimes one strain becomes more widespread than others, leading to more sickness than expected, even in people who got a shot. However, the CDC admitted in their study that this effectiveness rate "reflect(s) ongoing challenges with the A(H3N2) vaccine component since the 2011--12 season."

Cohen said that because of the early peak of the season and the fact that there's still widespread flu activity it's not too late to get vaccinated." (Rose Hoban, NC HEALTH NEWS, 3/01/18)

State Board Budget

Superintendent Mark Johnson said he could not endorse the State Board's list of supplemental budget priorities during the first day of the State Board of Education's two-day March meeting. His complaint Wednesday was that he had never seen them before. "I cannot sign off on support for this because this is the first time I'm seeing this," he said.

The supplemental budget priorities are sent by the State Board and other state agencies to the governor's office so he can put together an amended budget for the second year of the biennium that will be considered during the spring short session of the General Assembly. But Johnson said his staff had been told by State Board staff that his office should not be involved. "I have been in touch with the state budget director, and I will be submitting my own request," he said.

Board Member Tricia Willoughby said she was surprised to hear this. "I'm shocked because in my time on this Board...we've always done this collaboratively," she said. Adam Levinson, the state's Chief Financial Officer and the one making the presentation about the Board's budget priorities, said in a meeting Thursday that not including the superintendent was unintentional. "There seems to be a misunderstanding," he said. "And we're working through it."

Board Member Greg Alcorn, who chairs the committee that handled the supplemental budget recommendations, said in an e-mail that the superintendent is welcome to all discussions and meetings but has chosen not to attend.

Despite not having seen the details of the State Board's supplemental budget request until Wednesday, Johnson said one problem jumped out at him now that he had a chance to look. "Where in here do we specifically talk about preventing the upcoming budget cuts to this department?" he asked the Board. "That has been a topic of conversation by this Board for over six months now." Board Member Wayne McDevitt said he thought the supplemental budget request was separate from the budget cuts, and he was under the impression that the Board was waiting on Johnson. (Alex Granados, EDUCATION NC, 3/01/18)

Blue Cross Profit

Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the state's largest health insurer, reported its first profit ever on the Affordable Care Act, netting about \$600 million last year on customers the company covers under the federal health care law. Blue Cross reported its financials Thursday and said its ACA profit helped drive a company-wide net income of \$734 million last year. In addition to the half-million people Blue Cross covers under the ACA, the company provides insurance through large and small employers and also administers North Carolina's State Health Plan, for a customer total of 3.8 million people. Despite three years of consecutive losses on ACA plans, Blue Cross is now in the black by \$118 million because of the profit generated this year.

Blue Cross chief financial officer Mitch Perry said in a conference call that 2017 exceeded its expectations but should be seen in a broader context of ACA losses in recent years and continued uncertainty. Because Blue Cross is one of two ACA insurers in the state, and the only one that provides coverage in all 100 counties, the company's financial performance is a barometer of the ACA's prospects in North Carolina. The Durham company is one of the region's largest employers, with a workforce of 4,700, and said its annual revenue increased to \$9.4 billion last year from \$7.8 billion in 2016. Revenue from ACA customers alone doubled to \$3.7 billion from \$1.8 billion, as ACA rates increased 14.1 percent and Blue Cross gained about 200,000 ACA customers. (John Murawski, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/01/18)

GE Aviation

Aircraft engine supplier GE Aviation plans to invest \$105 million into its operations in Asheville, creating 131 jobs to support its new technology, machinery and additional equipment. The Evendale, Ohio-based company said Thursday the investment made this year will help accommodate an uptick in local production of ceramic matrix composite components for jet engines. It also is expected to assist in creating increased capacity in its legacy nickel alloy rotating parts. Additional investments create the need to expand its workforce, currently at approximately 425 employees, the company said. Wages for the new positions are expected to pay about 30 percent above the average wage in Buncombe County. The announcement came Thursday in a ceremony at the Asheville Chamber of Commerce. During the event, Gov. Roy Cooper told a room of local leaders it is clear GE Aviation "knows the kind of state that we are."

"North Carolina is becoming a center for aviation and the aerospace industry," Cooper said. "These jobs are advanced manufacturing jobs that pay an average of over \$48,000 a year. Many middle-class families will get a boost in pay and a new job." He added that GE Aviation has been "a great corporate partner in Western North Carolina." That they're doubling-down on the region shows that

the region has desirable traits such as its "good, quality workforce," he said. (Dillon Davis, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 3/01/18)

Asheville Beating

An Asheville police officer's beating of a man suspected of jaywalking and trespassing for crossing an empty parking lot -- and police handling their own investigation -- unleashed a furious response from city officials and community activists Thursday. Mayor Esther Manheimer and City Manager Gary Jackson said they had not known of the arrest before the Citizen-Times on its website Wednesday night posted a video of Johnnie Jermaine Rush being beaten while pinned to the ground and shocked twice with a stun gun while restrained. "The City Council and I immediately contacted city administration to express our outrage at the treatment of Mr. Rush and our outrage of not being informed about the actions of APD officers," Manheimer said in a Thursday statement.

The officer, Chris Hickman, has since resigned. Manheimer noted Rush's race in her statement. Hickman is white and Rush is black. Rush, in an interview with the Citizen-Times, said Hickman was verbally abusive and used a racial slur while he was hospitalized from injuries suffered in the beating. "On behalf of City Council, I apologize to Mr. Rush, an African-American resident, regarding his treatment by Asheville Police on Aug. 24, 2017," Manheimer said in her statement.

Officials and activists also criticized police for not notifying Jackson or council members about the confrontation. Dewanna Little, who was appointed by the council to help form a human relations commission, said the way the incident was handled has undermined work done to build trust with black residents. "If it was done right after it happened, if people had been alerted and the department said, 'We are highly disappointed in the officer's behavior, and we are addressing it,' that would have made a difference," said Little, who is African-American.

Police Chief Tammy Hooper on Thursday did not respond to emailed questions about the timing of the investigation and why the city manager or council members weren't told. In a statement issued Thursday morning, Hooper apologized to Rush "as well as the community."

Carmen Ramos-Kennedy, head of the local NAACP, said she was "sickened" by what happened to Rush and called it "horrific on every level." Ramos-Kennedy said she worked with police on the new use-of-force policy, but having that policy in place isn't enough and police should better communicate with residents. "I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the community knowing about these sorts of incidents when they happen. Learning of it this late is not acceptable," she said.

A criminal investigation into Hickman's actions is being conducted by the APD. Hickman resigned sometime before Jan. 19, according to a memo on the investigation obtained by the Citizen-Times. (Joel Burgess, ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES, 3/01/18)

Water Treatment

In the nearly nine months since GenX's presence first became known, Southeastern North Carolina residents have become familiar with water treatment mailers and social media ads. The N.C. Attorney General's Office, which handles consumer complaints, has received two complaints regarding water treatment or testing services since then from residents in Bladen, Brunswick, Cumberland, New Hanover and Pender counties, according to records provided by the office.

One of those complaints came from a Cumberland County resident regarding a payment dispute, while another -- filed by a Pender County woman -- questioned whether water treatment companies should be advertising the ability to filter GenX out of area residents' drinking water. "If the sophisticated water treatment plants cannot filter out GenX," wrote Carolyn Moser, "how can these companies(?) I am concerned for the citizens, especially our elderly that may be given incorrect information."

Moser, who is Pender County's health director, made clear in an interview that her complaint came in

her capacity as a Hampstead citizen. Moser filed the complaint last June when, shortly after the GenX issue emerged, she saw signs advertising the ability to remove the chemical from drinking water on her drive home. The state had not yet set its drinking water standards -- either the nearly 71,000 parts per trillion (ppt) initial standard or the updated 140 ppt standard.

According to an Attorney General's Office spokeswoman, consumers seeking a water treatment system should take steps such as seeking a second opinion, researching the company online, contacting the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) water quality department and ensuring that any contract has a 72-hour right to cancel. (Adam Wagner, WILMINGTON STAR-NEWS, 3/01/18)

Public Notices

Public notices will begin appearing on the Guilford County website instead of on newspaper websites, county commissioners decided Thursday night. Guilford County commissioners instructed the county to publish public notices on the county's website instead of paying to publish them in local newspapers. Local governments in North Carolina are required to publish certain notices in newspapers and, more recently, on their websites. But last year, the General Assembly passed a law unique to Guilford County that allows municipalities to bypass newspapers. The move was led by state Sen. Trudy Wade, R-Guilford, a long-time critic of the News & Record. It also impacts the High Point Enterprise, the Carolina Peacemaker and the Jamestown News. Publishers of those papers argue that their publications have websites where legal and other official notices are published and reach much wider audiences than government websites. The county spends about \$71,000 a year on public notices. The county's plan calls for hiring a part-time employee to manage the notice-publishing -- at a cost of about \$35,000 a year plus benefits. (Margaret Moffett, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 3/01/18)

Lumbee Documentary

Opponents of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline are deploying an increasingly common weapon in advocacy campaigns: a documentary film. Their 19-minute production, "Robeson Rises," features Lumbee Indians and an African American who live near the route of the planned 600-mile natural gas pipeline that is set to run through eight North Carolina counties. At times resolute and tearful, the local residents are shown organizing against the interstate energy project that they say threatens their ancestral land and their cultural identity.

The film's organizers say their project is unusual even by the standards of the political documentary, which takes sides by design. They agreed to cede artistic independence to empower the subjects of the film to make editorial decisions to tell their own story in their own way. "The community brings its own intentionality as to who owns the narrative," said Andy Myers, campaign coordinator of Working Films, a Wilmington organization that coordinated the project. "It hasn't been without some challenges because we were balancing the artists' autonomy as a filmmaker with the needs of the community."

"Robeson Rises" depicts locals facing off against a politically-powerful behemoth, in this case Charlotte's Duke Energy and Richmond's Dominion Resources. One of those featured in the "Robeson Rises" is N.C. State University hydrology professor Ryan Emanuel, who said in a phone interview that the documentary allows local residents to create a record of opposition to counter the scripted messaging of powerful corporations. "As a Lumbee person, I'm affected by this pipeline because it impacts the cultural landscapes that help define my identity as an indigenous person," Emanuel said. "We want to tell our own story even if it's not included in an official environmental impact statement."

Founded in 1999, Working Films has collaborated on 852 advocacy films and documentaries, including "Robeson Rises." The films have advocated against coal ash, fracking, offshore drilling and gerrymandering, and advocated for gay marriage, immigrant rights and Moral Monday protests. (John Murawski, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 3/01/18)

Teacher Survey

North Carolina educators can now anonymously share their concerns about issues in schools. State Superintendent Mark Johnson met with teachers at Underwood Elementary in Raleigh Thursday about the importance of participation. "I want to hear from teachers about where they are spending their time," Johnson said. "One of the things I focused on in my campaign was reducing the burden on teachers such as over-testing. Such things can take away from their instructional time." Johnson said feedback in the surveys will help shape future education policy in the state. "(We should) focus back on that core mission of teachers being able to have time to teach," Johnson said. (Hannah Webster, WRAL NEWS, 3/01/18)

Brunch Bill

If approved by the Yadkin County commissioners, guests having Sunday brunch at Jasper's Southern Farmhouse restaurant at Sanders Ridge Winery could order a glass of wine prior to noon. Neil Shore, the owner of Sanders Ridge Winery, spoke during the public comments portion of the Yadkin County Board of Commissioners meeting on Feb. 19 requesting that the board consider approving the so-called Brunch Bill. The bill, which allows for alcohol sales beginning at 10 a.m. rather than noon on Sundays, was signed into state law last summer, but towns and counties must individually approve the bill before it goes into effect for any given region.

The town of Boonville approved the bill on Nov. 7, 2017, following requests from several business owners. Sanders Ridge Winery is outside the town limit of Boonville, and therefore the bill would need to be approved by the county. Shore told the commissioners that they have a good brunch on Sundays at the winery's on-site restaurant, Jasper's Southern Farmstead, and would appreciate being able to serve wine to customers who are coming to enjoy a meal prior to noon. (Kitsey Burns Harrison, YADKIN RIPPLE, 2/27/18)

Museum Loan

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum is free and clear of the \$1.5 million "forgivable" loan from the City of Greensboro. On Thursday, the city announced that it has forgiven the \$1.5 million loan it made to the museum from 2013 to 2015. The city had agreed to forgive a dollar of the loan for every dollar the museum raised. Melvin "Skip" Alston, a co-founder of the museum, said he received an email saying the museum had reached the \$1.5 million mark. Alston called the news a "milestone" for the museum and definitely good news. "It is good news, but at the same time the struggle continues," he said. "We've gotten this off our plate now, but we still have to continue to do what we've been doing."

The City Council has invited Alston and other museum board members to Tuesday's meeting for special recognition. Mayor Nancy Vaughan, who has been a board member of the museum since the loan's inception, said she's glad the museum was able to reach its goal. "They've become a hub of the center city, and I'm happy that we were able to be part of that success," she said. Alston said museum leaders "far exceeded" the amount the city challenged them to raise. The annual gala last month, which marks the anniversary of the 1960 Woolworth sit-ins, was a success, as was the museum's annual golf tournament fundraiser. "We're appreciative of the community coming through for us," Alston said. (Margaret Moffett, GREENSBORO NEWS & RECORD, 3/01/18)

Conservation Easement

The LandTrust for Central North Carolina on Tuesday said it has received a \$152,344 grant from the Open Space Institute's Southeast Resilient Landscapes Fund for part of the purchase of a conservation easement on 500 acres in Randolph County. The property boasts mature hardwood forests, rare species, adjacency to other conserved lands, and unique wildlife habitat. The property also has more than a mile of frontage on Poison Fork Creek, rated an outstanding resource water, the highest water quality designation the state of North Carolina gives. OSI partners with conservation organizations in the Southeast to assemble networks of protected lands to preserve plant and animal diversity in a changing climate. The Southeast Resilient Landscapes Fund, capitalized with a grant

from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, provides grants and loans to nonprofit groups for the acquisition of land or conservation easements on climate-resilient lands. "The approval of this generous grant is only the first step in conserving this property," said LandTrust Executive Director Travis Morehead. "We will also be applying for matching funds to the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund for the additional funding necessary to purchase this conservation easement. This project's importance regarding water quality simply cannot be overstated." (THE SALISBURY POST, 3/01/18)

Ferry Limitations

Because of shoaling issues and low water depths in Big Foot Slough, the North Carolina Ferry System is temporarily implementing size and weight limits on vehicles using the Cedar Island-Ocracoke and Swan Quarter-Ocracoke routes. Effective immediately, no vehicles over 40 feet will be allowed on the Pamlico Sound routes, and each departure will carry no more than 25 vehicles. The restrictions will remain in place until the Army Corps of Engineers can complete a dredging operation in the channel. "The safety of our passengers and crew is always our top priority," said Ferry Division Director Harold Thomas. "We hate to impose these restrictions, but it's the only way we can continue to operate the Pamlico Sound routes safely until channel conditions improve." The dredging operations are expected to be completed in one to two weeks. (THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS, 3/01/18)

Man-Of-Wars

The Atlantic Portuguese man-of-war is a jellyfish-like creature also known as a "floating terror" with venomous, long tentacles that deliver a painful sting. Sightings of the creatures are being reported on North Carolina shores. Several social media posts have noted the presence of man-of-wars washing up on Cape Fear-area beaches, as first reported by The Wilmington Star News. A change in current patterns pushed thousands of man-of-wars onto Florida beaches this month, according to multiple reports.

Man-of-wars are often moved by winds and ocean currents, occasionally traveling in clusters of 1,000 or more, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "The water is warming up more quickly this year, and they are being seen a little earlier than normal in our area," said Matt Babineau, a member of the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher's animal care team, which cares for five different jellyfish species at the New Hanover County facility. If you see a man-of-war in the water, experts advise moving away or heading for shore since their stinging tentacles can reach more than 100 feet long. And one is often followed by others in the area. If you see one washed up on the beach, don't touch it. These aquatic beauties are still able to sting even weeks after being washed ashore. (Abbie Bennett, THE NEWS & OBSERVER, 2/28/18)

Legislative Studies and Meetings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

LB: Legislative Building

LOB: Legislative Office Building.

More Information: <http://ncleg.net/LegislativeCalendar/>

Friday, March 2

- 10 a.m. | North Carolina General Statutes Commission, 1027/1128 LB.

Monday, March 5

- 8:45 a.m. | House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions, 4800 Hangar Road, Charlotte.

Tuesday, March 6

- 9 a.m. | Task Force on Sentencing Reforms for Opioid Drug Convictions, 423 LOB.
- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, 643 LOB.
- **1 p.m. | Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee, 544 LOB.**
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy, 643 LOB.

Wednesday, March 7

- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Unemployment Insurance, 544 LOB.
- 10 a.m. | Child Fatality Task Force Full Meeting, 1027/1128 LB

Thursday, March 8

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology, 544 LOB.
- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, 643 LOB.
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Economic Development and Global Engagement Oversight Committee, 643 LOB.

Tuesday March 13

- 9 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, 643 LOB.
- **1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice, 643 LOB.**
- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium.

Thursday, March 15

- 1 p.m. | The Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform (2017), 544 LOB.

Monday, March 19

- **2 p.m. | House Select Committee on Disaster Relief, 544 LOB.**

Monday, March 26

- 10 a.m. | The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, 544 LOB.

Wednesday, March 28

- **12 p.m. | The Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (LRC)(2017), 544 LOB.**
- 1 p.m. | House Select Committee on Implementation of Building Code Regulatory Reform, 1228/1327 LB.

N.C. Government Meetings and Hearings

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Friday, March 2

- 10:30 a.m. | The Dept. of Commerce's Industrial Commission holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Room 240, 2nd Floor, Department of Insurance, Albemarle Building, 325 North Salisbury St., Raleigh.

- 2:30 p.m. | The Dept. of Commerce's Industrial Commission holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Room 240, 2nd Floor, Department of Insurance, Albemarle Building, 325 North Salisbury St., Raleigh.

Monday, March 5

- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries will hold a public hearing on proposed shellfish leases in Dare County, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries office at 1021 Driftwood Dr., Manteo.

Tuesday, March 6

- 10 a.m. | The Department of Health and Human Services/Secretary holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, Dorothea Dix Park, Williams Building, Room 123B, 1800 Umstead Dr., Raleigh.
- 11:30 a.m. | The Industrial Hemp Commission will hold a public meeting via telephone conference call. Contact: 669-900-6833.

Tuesday, March 13

- **12:30 p.m. | The N.C. Pesticide Board meets, Gov. James Martin Building, NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh.**
- 6 p.m. | The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries will hold a public hearing on proposed shellfish leases in Carteret County, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries' Central District Office, 5285 Highway 70 West, Morehead City.

Friday, April 6

- **10:30 a.m. | The state Division of Employment Security holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security, Room A-502, 700 Wade Ave., Raleigh.**

Tuesday, April 24

- 9 a.m. | The state Appraisal Board holds public hearing on proposed rule changes, North Carolina Appraisal Board, 5830 Six Forks Road, Raleigh.

UNC Board of Governors

Board Room of the UNC Center for School Leadership Development
140 Friday Center Drive, Chapel Hill (**remote meeting locations in RED**)
More Information: <https://www.northcarolina.edu/bog/schedule.php>

Friday, March 23

- TBA | UNC Wilmington, Wilmington.

Friday, May 25

- TBA | The UNC Board of Governors, C.S.L.D. Building, Chapel Hill.

N.C. Utilities Commission Hearing Schedule

Dobbs Building
430 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina
More Information: <http://www.ncuc.commerce.state.nc.us/activities/activit.htm>

Monday, March 5

- Staff Conference

Tuesday, March 6

- 10 a.m. | G-40 Sub 145 ...Petition for Annual Review, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Monday, March 12

- Staff Conference
- 1 p.m. | E-2 Sub 1149 ...Complaint of Fresh Air XXIV, LLC, Fresh Air XXIII LLC and Fresh Air XXXVIII, LLC, Dobbs - Commission Hearing Room, 2nd floor, Room 2115.

Monday, March 19

- Staff Conference

Monday, March 26

- Staff Conference

Other Meetings and Events of Interest

Items in **RED** are new listings.

Friday, March 2

- **12 p.m. | Gov. Roy Cooper attend the funeral service for Rev. Billy Graham, Billy Graham Library, 4330 Westmont Dr, Charlotte.**

Monday, March 19

- TBD | The N.C. Chamber hold annual meeting, Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley, 4500 Marriott Dr, Raleigh.

Monday, June 11

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor begins, local county Board of Elections.

Monday, June 18

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for all Judicial Offices begins, N.C. State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement, 430 N Salisbury St, Raleigh.

Friday, June 29

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for all Judicial Offices ends, N.C. State Board of Elections & Ethics Enforcement, 430 N Salisbury St, Raleigh.

Friday, July 6

- 12 p.m. | Candidate filing for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor ends, local county Board of Elections.

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